

Joint operation against improper use of bright light for fishing and illegal fishing activities (with photos)

The Marine Department (MD) together with the Hong Kong Police Force and the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) conducted a joint operation against the improper use of bright light for fishing and illegal fishing activities in the southern waters of Hong Kong on September 7.

During the operation, officers inspected the relevant waters, no vessel was found to be using bright light improperly for fishing and engaged in illegal fishing.

A spokesman for the MD reminded the public that under the Shipping and Port Control Regulations (Cap. 313A), vessels are allowed to use bright light for fishing in the areas where bright light fishing is permitted. However, the use of bright light on any vessel for the purpose of fishing or attracting fish in Hong Kong waters shall comply with the requirements of Cap. 313A and the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (General) Regulation (Cap. 548F), i.e. a bright light shall be so constructed, shaded, installed and used that no light emitted from it shall be visible, whether directly or by reflection from any source other than sea surface, above a horizontal plane passing through the lowest edge of the light source. A person who contravenes the related legislation commits an offence and is liable to a fine of \$5,000 upon conviction.

In addition, under the Fisheries Protection Ordinance (Cap. 171), only a vessel registered under the Ordinance can be used for fishing in Hong Kong waters and only the fishing methods listed on its Certificate of Local Fishing Vessel Registration can be employed for fishing by the vessel. Any offender upon conviction is liable to a fine of \$100,000 and imprisonment for six months.

To ensure the order of marine traffic and navigation safety of vessels, in addition to daily patrols and enforcement actions in various districts of Hong Kong waters, the MD also maintains close co-operation with the Marine Police and the AFCD from time to time to conduct target-based joint operations, including inspections of suspected improper use of bright light for fishing and illegal fishing activities. From January to August 2023, the MD conducted a total of 31 special operations in areas including the waters of southern Lantau Island, southern Lamma Island, south of Hong Kong Island and east of Hong Kong. Eighteen fishing vessels were suspected of violating relevant marine legislation. The MD is now taking follow-up actions and will instigate prosecution against these fishing vessels.

The MD will continue to step up patrols to combat the improper use of bright light for fishing activities so as to ensure safe navigation. The department will also meet with local fishery organisations from time to time to distribute relevant publicity and education materials to the trade. Information on the proper use of bright light for fishing is available on the MD's website: www.mardep.gov.hk/en/publication/materials/pdf/publf.pdf.



[Reopening of Water Supplies Department H2OPE Centre](#)

The Water Supplies Department (WSD) announced that the H2OPE Centre (Water Resources Public Education Centre) will be reopened from 10am today (September 9).

[Temporary closure of some LCSD facilities \(2\)](#)

â€‹The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced that its facilities will reopen today (September 9). The following facilities, however, will continue to be temporarily closed until further notice for clearance and urgent repair works.

– Hong Kong Island

1. Southern District:

– Pao Yue Kong Swimming Pool (to be reopened at 10am)

2. Eastern District

- Chai Wan Swimming Pool (to be reopened at 10am)
- Quarry Bay Sports Centre

3. Central and Western District :

- Hong Kong Park Sports Centre (to be reopened at noon)
- Hong Kong Squash Centre (to be reopened at noon)

4. Wan Chai District :

- Causeway Bay Sports Ground

– Kowloon

1. Kwun Tong District:

- Kowloon Bay Sports Centre
- Jordan Valley Swimming Pool
- On Sau Road Park
- Wai Lok Street Temporary Soccer Pitch

2. Kowloon City District:

- Fat Kwong Street Sports Centre
- Kowloon City Sports Centre

– New Territories

1. Tai Po District :

- Tai Po Waterfront Park (Outdoor Bowling Greens)

- All gazetted beaches

Temporary closure of some LCSD facilities

The Leisure and Cultural Services Department announced that its facilities will reopen today (September 9). The following facilities, however, will continue to be temporarily closed until further notice for clearance and urgent repair works.

– Hong Kong Island

1. Southern District:

- Pao Yue Kong Swimming Pool (to be reopened at 10am)

2. Eastern District

- Chai Wan Swimming Pool (to be reopened at 10am)
- Quarry Bay Sports Centre

- Kowloon

1. Kwun Tong District:

- Kowloon Bay Sports Centre
- Jordan Valley Swimming Pool
- On Sau Road Park
- Wai Lok Street Temporary Soccer Pitch

2. Kowloon City District:

- Fat Kwong Street Sports Centre
- Kowloon City Sports Centre

- All gazetted beaches

Regional flag day today

Three charities have been issued Public Subscription Permits to hold flag sales from 7am to 12.30pm today (September 9). They are, on Hong Kong Island, Heep Hong Society; in Kowloon, Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service; and in the New Territories, Cheung Chau Island Women's Association Limited, a spokesman for the Social Welfare Department (SWD) said.

Arrangements have been made with the charities to help people distinguish among the three flag-selling activities.

Information on the three flag-selling organisations on September 9 is as follows:

Region	Name of Organisation	Colour of Collection Bag	Colour of Flag
Hong Kong Island	Heep Hong Society	Yellow	Light Blue
Kowloon	Kwun Tong Methodist Social Service	Green	Green
New Territories	Cheung Chau Island Women's Association Limited	Dark Magenta	Pink

Details of the charitable fund-raising activities, including any updated information, covered by the issued Public Subscription Permit have been

published on the GovHK website (www.gov.hk/en/theme/fundraising/search/). Permits for flag days containing information on contact methods of the flag-selling organisations and the approved flag-selling activities have also been uploaded to the SWD's website (www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_pubsvc/page_controlofc/sub_flagdays/) for reference. For enquiries, please call the SWD's hotline at 2343 2255, or the designated hotline of the 1823 Call Centre at 3142 2678.

In the case of suspected fraudulent flag day activities, people should not make any donation and should immediately report the matter to the Police, the spokesman added.